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BOZICEVIC FIELD & FRANCIS LLP  
1900 UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
SUITE 200  
EAST PALO ALTO CA 94303

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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

|                                 |   |                      |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| In re Application of            | : |                      |
| Malfroy-Camine, et al.          | : |                      |
| Application No. 09/029,686      | : | DECISION ON PETITION |
| Filed: March 3, 1998            | : |                      |
| Attorney Docket No. RICE-039US2 | : |                      |

This is a decision on the petition, filed February 23, 2006, to revive the above-identified application under 37 CFR 1.137(b).

The petition is **GRANTED**.

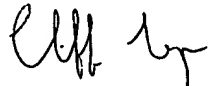
The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to timely file a proper response to the final Office action mailed October 6, 1999, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extensions of time were obtained. Accordingly, no reply having been received, the application became abandoned on January 7, 2000. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on July 21, 2000.

Petitioner has met the requirements to revive the above-identified application, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b). Petitioner submitted the required reply in the form of a continuation application, paid the petition fee, and made the proper statement of unintentional delay.

The above-identified application is being revived solely for purposes of continuity. As continuity has been established by this decision reviving the above-identified application, the above-identified application is again abandoned in favor of application No. 11/362,454, filed February 23, 2006.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571)272-3207.



Cliff Congo  
Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions